

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 08853

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (T E X T C O R R E C T E D)

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: NATO, GE
SUBJECT: LUNS' PRESS STATEMENT ON NATO EXERCISES

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REF: USNATO 8785 (DTG 270801Z SEP 78)

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BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL

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1. THERE FOLLOWS BELOW TEXT OF LUNS' STATEMENT TO PRESS
ON NATO EXERCISES. STATEMENT IS CONSISTENT WITH THE DIS-
CUSSION OF THE SUBJECT AT SEPTEMBER 26 PERMREPS LUNCH
(REFTEL).

2. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED TEXT OF LUNS' PRESS STATEMENT:

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NATO EXERCISES: PRESS STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL

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AS THE NATO AUTUMN EXERCISES DRAW TO THEIR CLOSE, IN AN
AREA WHICH STRETCHES FROM NORTHERN NORWAY TO THE MEDITER-
RANEAN, I SHOULD LIKE TO PAY A PERSONAL TRIBUTE TO ALL
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THOSE CONCERNED WITH THE PREPARATION AND CONDUCT OF THESE
ESSENTIAL TESTS AND DEMONSTRATIONS OF THE ABILITY OF NATO
FORCES TO OPERATE TOGETHER EFFECTIVELY, TO REINFORCE THE
FORWARD AREAS AND, THEREBY, TO DISCHARGE THEIR VITAL
DETERRENT AND DEFENCE MISSIONS. A MAJOR FEATURE OF THE
EXERCISES HAS AGAIN BEEN THIS YEAR THE ANNUAL DEPLOYMENT
FROM NORTH AMERICA OF US PERSONNEL BY SEA AND AIR TO

REINFORCE EUROPE. DURING MY VISITS TO THE EXERCISE AREAS, I HAVE BEEN PROFOUNDLY IMPRESSED BY THE PROFESSIONALISM AND DEDICATION OF THE MILITARY FORCES TAKING PART AND WITH THE EXCELLENT COOPERATION PROVIDED BY THE CIVILIAN AUTHORITIES.

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I REGARD THESE EXERCISES AS FIRST AND FOREMOST A FURTHER MANIFESTATION OF ATLANTIC SOLIDARITY. THEY ALSO PROVIDE A PRACTICAL AND VALUABLE MEANS OF APPLYING THE LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE CONTINUOUS EFFORTS WITHIN NATO TO IMPROVE, BY COOPERATIVE ACTION, THE CAPABILITIES OF NATO'S DEFENCE FORCES.

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FROM THE REPORTS I HAVE RECEIVED SO FAR FROM GENERAL HAIG ABOUT THIS YEAR'S EXERCISES, IT IS CLEAR THAT THEY ARE WELL SERVING THEIR NECESSARY AND VITAL PURPOSES WHICH ARE RECOGNISED AND FULLY SUPPORTED BY ALL THE MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE ALLIANCE.

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(SIGNED) JOSEPH LUNS. END TEXT. BENNETT

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